



USAID | KAZAKHSTAN

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International Expert Speaks to Students



Photo: USAID

Although USAID media assistance is mostly targeting mid-level career professionals of broadcast and print media outlets, in April 2006, journalism students at the Kazakh State University were able to participate in a lecture by an internationally known trainer in journalism, funded by USAID.

A consultant from the US-based International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), Ann Olson, spoke to about 50 first and second-year

USAID provides a rare opportunity for Kazakhstani journalism students to learn from an internationally known journalism trainer.

journalism students at the university, addressing a variety of topics including the ethics of journalism, professional standards, and responsible media coverage of sensitive issues. The presentation was followed with a question and answer session.

Olson's lecture at the university was a genuine effort to share the expert resources USAID's projects bring into the country with local education institutions. The lecture was one in a series of workshops and trainings Olson led in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan for local journalists. The program was organized by ICFJ and Internews Network with the financial support from USAID.

Fifteen years after the country gained its independence, media professionalism still has not fundamentally improved. Direct and indirect media control by the political interest and business groups, lack of strong traditions in independent journalism, and limited exposure to the international practices make such lectures as presented by Ann Olson even more valuable for the new growing generation of country's news-makers.